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# A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT

TO

# JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD

James A. Garfield

# A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT

FROM

# The Literary Society of Washington

TO ITS LATE PRESIDENT

# JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD
NOVEMBER 19 1881

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# PROCEEDINGS.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Literary Society held on Monday, November 7, 1881, the death of James Abram Garfield, President of the Society, was announced by the Vice-President.

It was unanimously resolved by the Committee to hold a special meeting of the Society in memory of its late President on the evening of November 19, the fiftieth anniversary of his birth.

On the appointed evening the Society assembled at the residence of its Vice-President, Dr. Gallaudet, on Kendall Green. There were also present a number of invited guests, including prominent representatives of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Departments of the Government.

At nine o'clock the meeting was called to order, and the exercises were opened with the following address by the Vice-President:

## Address of Vice-President Gallaudet.

"How pure at heart, how sound at head;
With what divine affection bold,
Should be the man whose thought would hold
An hour's communion with the dead."

*Fellow members of the Literary Society:*

I need not tell you that we are assembled for "an hour's communion" with one whom we delighted to honor while he was yet among us.

That we have, towards him who is gone, that purity at heart, that soundness at head, that boldness of divine affection which the poet demands of those who would hold such communion, I believe.

We are here as loving heirs entering upon the possession of a precious heritage.

Our friend is no longer ours "to have or to hold," but he is still ours "to remember;" and it is for us to enjoy, through the years that remain, the rich legacy he has left us in the record of a life, all the aims of which challenge our highest admiration.

Though we cannot have, hereafter, his presence in our meetings as a fountain ever flowing with refreshment to mind and heart, the memory of his true

eloquence will linger, and in imagination we shall often see and hear him, as on those occasions

> "When forth
> He sent from his full lungs his mighty voice,
> And words came like a fall of winter snow."

With the public life of our late President, the members of the Literary Society, as such, have little concern.

It will be for others to tell of his work as a teacher, to recount his deeds in arms, to describe his career as a legislator, and to record the events of his brief term as Chief Magistrate of the Nation.

Our privilege is to fill a page in his history which may show him to have been a man of letters: a student of books as well as of men, a promoter of the fine arts, as well as the arts of war and of government.

Before entering upon a consideration of the character of our late President from these points of view, it will not, I trust, be thought out of place to present, briefly, the story of his connection with our Society. This I have been requested to prepare, and I beg leave to place it, as my humble offering, on the shrine before which we now stand with reverent heads and loving hearts.

General Garfield's membership in our Society covered a period of five years and seven months. The day of the month on which he entered our ranks was the same as that which marks the days of his birth and

death. He was announced as a member at Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren's, on the 19th of February, 1876, at the same time with General Albert J. Myer, Mr. Charles Nordhoff, and Miss Annie W. Story.

The literary exercises on that occasion consisted of a paper on the Life, Character, and Art Work of the late Horatio Stone, by Miss E. B. Johnston, an essay on the Indian Character and Characteristics, by Dr. Elliott Coues, a dissertation on Art and Art Technics, by Mr. Theodor Kaufmann, and a lecture upon Molecules and the Molecular Theory, by Prof. Wm. Harkness.

The pressure of General Garfield's public duties did not allow him to attend all the meetings of the Society, and during the winter of 1877–'8 he was able to be present so rarely that a note was sent him by the Secretary, Mrs. Long, calling his attention to Article XII of the Constitution, relating to the forfeiture of membership by unexplained absences from three consecutive meetings, and inquiring if he desired to hold his place as a member. The following reply was received:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*February* 15, 1878.

DEAR MRS. LONG:

Your note of the 11th inst. came duly to hand. I greatly regret that overwork has kept me from the meetings of the Society. I have earnestly desired

to attend them, but I am unwilling to be an obstacle to its progress, and unless I can give it more attention in the future, I think the Society had better drop me from its rolls. Please inform me when and where the next meeting will be held, and, if possible, I will be there either for apology or resignation.

Very truly,

J. A. GARFIELD.

Mrs. R. CARY LONG,

*1530 I street.*

At the next meeting, which was held at Dr. N. S. Lincoln's a week later, General Garfield was present and made some interesting comments on a paper by Mr. Peter Baumgras, concerning the habits of the æronaut spider; and thereafter his presence at meetings was sufficiently frequent to secure him an immunity from further discipline.

General Garfield is recorded as having spoken at eleven meetings: and he was present on many occasions when he took no part in the discussions. Three times the Society met at his house, and during the first year of his presidency, when, owing to some adverse circumstances the successful continuance of the Society was a matter of no little uncertainty, he showed his interest in its welfare by presiding at six of the meetings.

The first occasion on which General Garfield's voice was heard in the formal exercises of the Society was

at Judge S. W. Johnston's, on the evening of April 29, 1876, when he read some extracts from Byron's "Waterloo," the present speaker rendering them in the language of signs at the same time.

On the 13th of May following, General Garfield entertained the Society at his residence. The question discussed at this meeting was, "Who were the five chief promoters of American independence?" The subject was debated by Mrs. Long, Messrs. Garfield, Chief-Justice Drake, J. Q. Howard, and Dr. C. C. Cox.

On the evening of Washington's birthday, in the year 1879, one of the most interesting meetings of the Society was held at the residence of Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren. On this occasion the principal feature was an address by General Garfield on George Washington, in which the speaker confined himself chiefly to a consideration of the wonderful character of the revolutionary career of the Father of his Country, taken in connection with the preceding circumstances of his life.

Four weeks later, on the 22d of March, the Society met for the second time at General Garfield's. The literary entertainment for the evening was furnished by Dr. C. C. Cox, who read an article on the Latin hymns of the church, giving original translations of several.

General Garfield commented on this paper in a most

discriminating manner, showing his lively and appreciative interest in the classics.

It was on the 16th of December, 1879, at a meeting of the Executive Committee, held at Mrs. F. W. Lander's, that General Garfield was elected President of the Society.

The Committee consisted of Mrs. Lander, Miss E. B. Johnston, Dr. J. M. Toner, Dr. C. W. Hoffman, and Col. I. Edwards Clarke, all of whom were present at the meeting.

On being informed of his election by one of the lady members of the Committee, General Garfield expressed doubt as to the propriety of his accepting the office, for he feared that his many engagements would prevent his fulfilling properly the duties of the position. But on being assured that his acceptance of the presidency was a matter of great moment to the Society at that particular juncture, he consented to serve, and promised to do all in his power to advance the Society's interests. Upon which the lady member of the committee, who was communicating with him, laughingly remarked: "Well, General, this thing of being President is a matter of habit. I would not bribe you, but, by way of reward, I will have you nominated for President of the United States at the next convention of your party."

The first literary meeting of the Society, for the season of 1879–'80, was held at Mrs. F. W. Lander's, on the 27th of December.

General Garfield presided, and on taking the chair spoke of the value of such associations as ours in keeping up a love for literature, and in forcing us, as it were, to renew our vows.

He said, further, that for himself, he had found, in the reunions of this Society, great pleasure and comfort. From the busy whirl of public affairs, in which he was compelled to move from day to day, he came to the "Literary," as men return from their wanderings in the world to the homes of their childhood.

The literary exercises at this meeting were, a paper entitled "First Cables," by General Benjamin Alvord, three poems by Mrs. R. Cary Long, and an essay on the "Gesture Language of Mankind," by Col. Garrick Mallery.

At the second meeting for the season, held at the residence of Judge Johnston, on the 10th of January, 1880, General Garfield presided.

The subject for consideration was "*The relative merits of the Prose Writers and Poets of America.*"

At the commencement of the discussion, the President announced his intention to make some remarks at the close, but the time allotted to debate was more than filled by the members of the Society, leaving him no opportunity to speak.

The third meeting for the season was held at General Garfield's residence on the 24th of January, the host for the evening occupying the chair.

The literary exercises consisted of a translation from

the German of a curious story entitled, *The Greatest Man in the World*, by Mrs. Chapman Coleman, and a paper on *The Poetry of the Deaf*, by the present speaker.

The President made interesting comments on both these papers.

The fourth occasion on which General Garfield presided was at the residence of the speaker, on the evening of February 21, 1880.

The discussion, which was upon incidents in the history of General Washington, was closed by the President. In the course of his remarks General Garfield called attention to the remarkable fecundity of Virginia in great men about the Revolutionary period, and named seven of her sons who were eminent in various capacities, viz: Patrick Henry as orator, Lee as cavalry leader, Madison as constitutional expounder, Marshall as jurist, Mason as parliamentary debater, Jefferson as philosophical statesman, and Washington as soldier, statesman, and patriot.

General Garfield suggested that an inquiry as to the causes of this unusual wealth of talent, found in one State at one epoch, might furnish the Society an interesting subject for discussion at some future meeting.

Those who were present at Judge Johnston's on the evening of February 26, 1881, will remember what pleasure and profit the consideration of this question afforded the Society.

General Garfield presided for the fifth time at the residence of Governor Wm. Claflin, on the evening of the 3d of April, 1880.

At that meeting a paper by Mrs. Claflin on *The Life and Character of John Greenleaf Whittier* was read, and the question, *What desirable social elements are endangered by a too rapid advance of civilization?* was discussed.

In closing the debate the President referred to an occasion when, being hindered for some hours on a railway train by a heavy fall of snow, he was led to reflect as to what was to be done, or had been done, with the leisure made available to mankind by the many labor-saving inventions of the present century.

From these remarks came the suggestion of a subject, the discussion of which, it will be remembered, occupied the evening at Mr. Charles Nordhoff's, on the 15th of January, of the present year.

Our late President occupied the chair for the last time at Dr. C. W. Hoffman's residence, on the evening of May 1st, 1880.

The night was warm, and the windows were open. At the conclusion of the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting the sound of lively music in the street interfered with the proceedings. Immediately some one remarked "It is the circus." General Garfield, with that boyish impulsiveness of manner which was not unusual with him, exclaimed, "The circus? come, then, friends, we will suspend for a few minutes,

and go and see it pass by." So the Society crowded the windows and front steps until the circus had passed.

The literary exercises for that evening consisted of two poems, by Mrs. R. Cary Long, one a translation from the French of Victor Hugo, and an essay on the "Relation of Poetry to Art," by Mr. E. H. Miller.

The President made pertinent remarks on all the literary contributions, and recited a poem by Mrs. Browning, of which, he said, he was reminded by Mrs. Long's translation from Victor Hugo.

The record of General Garfield's presence with the Society would be incomplete without mention of the reception given in his honor by Miss E. B. Johnston, at the residence of her brother, on the 17th of June, 1880.

Those who were present on that occasion, ever to be remembered, will not soon forget with what simplicity and modesty he bore himself, and how plainly he expressed distrust of his fitness for the high position in which his party had placed him.

Nor will the memory soon fade away of the cordial warmth with which he met his old friends on that day, and the evident pleasure he felt at being able to come from the heated arena of politics into what he was wont to call his literary home.

The pressure of his official duties as President of the United States, and the event of Mrs. Garfield's illness, which followed his inauguration by only a few

weeks, prevented General Garfield from attending any of the meetings of the Society during the last season. But assurances of his continued interest were not lacking. Flowers were sent from the Executive Mansion on more than one occasion to attest his remembrance of the Society.

To one of our lady members he said, not many days before the final meeting for the season, at Chief-Justice Drake's, on the 21st of May: "I will try and be there—I think I might come home *once*;" and adding, "It will be the appropriate thing for the President of the United States to preside when the character and services of Lafayette are discussed." Then, after expressing his great regret that he had not been able to attend the recent meetings, he said: "You have no idea of the burden of each hour—I think of the Society as a rest."

It is not easy to measure the extent or weight of the influence which has been and which will be exerted on our Society by the membership of General Garfield.

The magnetism of his personal presence at a meeting was sufficient to gild a dull hour into brilliancy.

The utterances of his thought upon any subject flowed as from a full reservoir, and were invariably stimulating and suggestive.

His example, as one who, in spite of the many demands of public life, still found time to work as a student, and to keep himself fresh in general litera-

ture, was a standing rebuke to many a less ardent devotee of letters.

Marked and strong as was the impress of his influence on the current of thought and action in the Society while he remained a member, no prophetic vision is needed to foresee that the future results of his connection with it may exceed many fold those of the past.

The fact in its history of having once had such a President must surely incite members to strive for the highest possible standard of literary excellence in their individual work, as well as in the work of the Society.

And if the result of such effort should be to secure for the Society a recognition in the world of letters as an organization well deserving to bear the name it has assumed, then will he be honored, in deed, to whose memory we would give all possible honor in word and thought to-night.

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At the conclusion of the Vice-President's address, Mr. Theodore F. Dwight, the Secretary of the Society, announced Mr. Ainsworth R. Spofford as the next speaker.

## THE INTELLECTUAL CHARACTER AND METHODS OF GARFIELD.

By AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD.

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I have been requested to give to the Society some account of the intellectual life of our late President,

the books he read, the subjects of thought which interested him, with his methods of study and of preparation for his public utterances.

Among the men whom I have known whose lives were engrossed in public affairs, President Garfield was one of the most extensive readers. Not that he absolutely travelled through more books than some others, but he used a multitude of authors by way of hints, suggestions, or authorities. It was the habit of his mind, apparently very early formed, to generalize, to seek for great leading principles, and to push his investigations of a subject until he had covered all the ground that time permitted, before putting his own ideas into form. To this end he read rapidly, seizing with quick intuition the portions of a book which had anything to his purpose, and throwing aside as quickly those which yielded nothing. His perceptive faculties were of the highest order; his mind was comprehensive, and his tendency was to take the largest view of every subject. His fair-mindedness made him recognize the merit often of opposing views, and his unfailing courtesy and suavity of manner made him a general favorite. He was never chary of asking assistance in laying out the materials for any work he had to do. He made no mystery of what he was about; concealed nothing of his purposes or methods; drew freely upon his friends for suggestions; used his family, secretaries, and librarians to look up authorities, or, if he found the time, he looked them up himself. When

he had examined the field as thoroughly as he was able, he organized his subject in his own mind, and, if the speech was to be in Congress, he seldom wrote more than a few of its leading outlines, leaving the substance, as well as the diction, to the occasion. He sometimes memorized, but many of his finest utterances were struck out in the white heat of debate. He had a genuine love of discussion, and the activity of his intellect was such as to give him rare advantages in extemporaneous discourse. You, who have heard him speak, recall the vivid force of his utterance, the solidity of his matter, the clear logic of his reasoning, the occasional beauty of his imagery or illustrations, the sympathetic and persuasive tones of his voice, and the electric energy with which he marched through his subject with the bearing of a master. His audiences, though composed, as regards most of his public utterances, of the most difficult—not to say critical—elements in America, (a body of lawyers, orators, and politicians,) were often held spellbound to the close. No man who has spoken in that forum during the last quarter of a century has succeeded better in holding that proverbially unwilling and often impervious organ, known as "the ear of the House." No man who ever spoke in that trying auditorium has more impressed his auditors as fulfilling the Demosthenean rule of eloquence—that its first, its second, and its third condition is earnestness.

Conjoined with this intensity, both of conviction and

of expression, was a uniform and unfailing courtesy towards his opponents, which marked the inherent fair-mindedness of the man. Amidst all the animosities of the fiercest political warfare he always kept his temper. He kept, too, in a degree which is too rare among public men, the respect and the friendship of his political adversaries. That gentle suavity of demeanor which combined with his evident sincerity to make every one his friend, made him a chivalrous opponent and a generous foe. He impugned no man's motives; he scorned the petty personalities of debate; respecting himself, he had an abiding respect for the honesty and rectitude of purpose of those who differed from him. Though an ardent partisan, believing in the necessity and recognizing the benefits of parties in the State, he would not resist the recognition of merit in opposing views, and his nature was far too catholic to be bound by the blind and dogged bigotry of party. Hence he sometimes drew down upon himself the censure of his more radical brethren, for yielding points to the adversary. The facts were that Garfield had the insight to see, and the honesty to acknowledge, that his party was fallible; that it might make, and had made mistakes, and that, to persist in defending errors, was not the road either to truth or to permanent party ascendancy. He had the manliness to go before the Supreme Court in March, 1866, in defence of the indefeasible right of the citizen to civil process and jury trial in States which were not the immediate theatre

of war. His argument in the case of Milligan and others, tried by court-martial in Indiana, and denied the benefit of *habeas corpus*, was a cogent and powerful appeal in behalf of the muniments of civil liberty, against the violence and the passion of party. The epoch was near the flood-tide of the great Union sentiment which swept away all barriers, and crushed out, not only the rebellion, but every apology or extenuation of it that found voice in any part of the land. To be a Copperhead or the defender of Copperheads was to run the risk of unpopularity or of ostracism. Garfield ran that risk, in obedience to his sense of duty, and his calm and manly plea, fortified as it was by the best precedents and the most impressive *dicta* of writers on public law, and closing with that classic peroration in which he invoked the judges to erect the shrine of impartial justice in the Capitol, was sustained by the unanimous judgment of the Supreme Court. His course on this occasion, being as he was the representative of the most intensly radical anti-slavery district in the Union, showed him capable of seeing both sides of a question. It provoked much hostile criticism, and he told his constituents that he did it "in defence of what appeared to me a most vital and important principle: that in no part of our civil community must the military be exalted above the civil authority." It is to the credit of his constituents that they honored him for his independence, and returned him continuously to Congress until he was chosen

Senator. In this important case he neither expected nor received any compensation. Those who have found Garfield guilty of a fatal want of moral courage would do well to study, under the fierce light of the time when it was done, what he did on that occasion.

The history of Garfield's mind was a continuous growth, from very crude beginnings until he became one of the best equipped men in public life. His early culture was so deficient that, when he began with a fixed resolve to get an education, he had many obstacles to overcome. But he mastered them all, and was an eager student of books before he had yet learned their true and highest uses. As he wrote of Abraham Lincoln, so was it true of himself: "The few books that came within his reach he devoured with the divine hunger of genius." When away from dictionaries and cyclopædias, he would make notes of all the words and allusions which he did not comprehend in the books he read, and looked them up as soon as opportunity could be found. His early experience as a teacher helped him, as it has helped many others, both to acquire and to arrange clearly his knowledge for immediate use. He wrote copiously at all periods of his life, and at college in 1856 he was chosen one of the editors of the "Williams Quarterly," in which appeared essays from his pen on the Province of History, the writings of the German lyric poet, Körner, a parody on Tennyson, etc. He was also elected President of the Philologian Society—a debating club in

which the students exercised their powers, arguing many of the questions that divided opinion in history, literature, politics, and social life.

His early style, before he acquired that refined taste which comes from familiarity with the classic models, and especially from the Greek, was somewhat crude and declamatory. In fact, he never quite got over a certain exuberance and effusion which came from his large, free, gushing nature and ardent temperament. He strove to check this tendency, and in sober composition he succeeded well in doing so. He was conscious of the defects which spoil most of our public speaking for any permanent effect or place in literature. But he was conscious, too, of the possession of great faculties for impressing men, and he passionately loved the power and the opportunities of the public orator. Given a theme of patriotic interest, and a great sympathetic audience, and he delighted in the exercise of his gift of speech, as a strong man to run a race. There he would let out the whole volume of that sonorous voice, whose tones swayed and stirred the audience like the sound of a trumpet, while the sledge-hammer blows of his powerful left arm (almost his only gesture) enforced his utterances. The upturned sea of faces before him gazed with intent look, almost as absorbed as he, while the fervid orator, with head thrown far back—a head like that of the Olympian Jove—drove home the strong points of his argument. Then would come, ever and anon, a volley of applause;

and when he closed, the ringing shouts and cheers broke forth, for the multitude idolized Garfield.

Of the effect of much stump speaking upon his modes of thinking, Garfield thus wrote to a friend:

"I have no doubt that it induces a looseness and superficiality of thought and an extravagance of expression; but, on the other hand, it has some compensations."

It will readily be gathered, by those who know the exacting nature of public station at Washington, that Garfield had little time for discursive reading. Yet he was never without a quantity of books on hand, upon which he drew at odd intervals. When travelling he generally took a book with him, and in the vacations of Congress he read and studied much. While the majority of the works for which he drew upon the Library were books of fact and of reference, he had a wide range and a catholic taste in the realm of literature that lay outside of these. He read, first and last, a great deal of history, and was nearly as familiar with the history of England as with that of our own country. Biographies he did not specially affect, but read only a few, and those of the great leading names. For mere narratives of travel he cared but little, and sea voyages lost their charm quite early for him. But for the researches and discoveries on the sites of ancient cities—Troy, Ephesus, Cyprus, and Mycenæ—he had a keen appetite. Of metaphysics proper he read little or nothing; but the masters of thinking, who apply

logic and the science of mind to great social and political problems, he held in high regard. For Carlyle he once had a great enthusiasm, but in later years he read him little. Emerson he read and re-read with ever fresh admiration. He was interested in natural science, and loved to trace out natural laws, in the genesis and growth of plants, in geology, in heredity, etc. He studied political economy much, and had read nearly all the leading writers. He was one of the few men in politics who had any clear conception of the functions of money and the laws of finance. He was interested in genealogy and in his own family history. I remember his satisfaction at finding in the Visitation of Middlesex that there was one Abraham Garfield enrolled two centuries ago among the vast population of London. He delighted in tracing out etymologies, and in running words home to their roots in Greek, Latin, German, or Anglo-Saxon. His own name he found to be from *field* and the Saxon *Gaer*, a field-watcher, which, freely rendered, is "a wide-awake farmer," and such, in the estimation of his rural neighbors at Mentor, Garfield certainly was. One of his latest searches, in June last, was to trace through various town histories of Massachusetts his own ancestry, with its collateral branches, and that of his wife.

His taste for the classics, early imbibed, appeared to lose no zest with the advance of age or of cares. He was never too busy to quote Horace, or to come to the library after a half-remembered passage in Virgil.

In the midst of one of the busiest sessions of Congress, he struck off one day "in the rough," as he termed it, a metrical translation of the fine ode of Horace, "To the ship which carried Virgil to Athens." I can give only a verse or two:

"So may the powerful goddess of Cyprus,
So may the brothers of Helen, ~~twin~~ twin stars,
So may the father and ruler of tempests,
(Restraining all others, save only Iapix,)

"Guide thee, O ship, on thy journey, that owest
To Attica's shores, Virgil trusted to thee:
I pray thee restore him, in safety restore him,
And saving him, save me the half of my soul."

He used frequently to lament his failure to purchase, from want of money, a fine set of Lemaire's Latin Classics, which he saw on one of the quays of Paris on occasion of his only visit to Europe.

One of his special studies, taken up by him in 1874, and pursued with his customary zeal, was an investigation as to the Sabine farm of Horace, where the great poet raised wine and olives, its locality, soil, and other characteristics. This he pursued through many volumes, gleaning everything that could throw the faintest light upon the subject. At another time he made a careful study of Goethe and his leading contemporaries in Germany, and wrote out for himself (not for publication) an extended sketch of the intellectual life of Europe at the beginning and at the close of Goethe's career.

His favorite poet, next to Shakespeare and Horace, was Tennyson; and next, I think, Elizabeth Browning. Of the best novels he never tired, and his prime favorites he read over and over again. I well remember his questioning the *dictum* of some critic that George Eliot's Romola was the most perfect work of fiction ever written. When asked his own preference, he unhesitatingly gave the palm to Thackeray, but could not quite make up his mind which of that author's works was the finest as a master-piece of fiction. He intensely enjoyed the exquisite fun of Dickens—unlike the late Charles Sumner, who seldom read a novel, and had almost no sense of humor. Garfield has been sometimes compared with Sumner as a man of letters, but between the two men there were far more striking contrasts than points of resemblance.

Garfield's library motto was "*inter folia fructus*"—fruit among the leaves; and a rare gatherer of the sweet fruits of literature was he. His interest in libraries was great, and he made the Library at the Capitol the recipient of his large annual collection of pamphlets. After he was President he continued his visits to the Library, always accompanied by his wife, whose intellectual gifts were a noble complement to his own. His entrance into the Library, no matter on how serious an errand, was always like a gleam of sunshine.

Of the writings of Garfield, the most numerous were his speeches and occasional addresses. Many

of these bear the marks of the most careful preparation. He was ever most solicitous to verify every fact and quotation, and, after speaking *ex tempore*, he was anxious until he had carefully corrected the proofs. Among the notably excellent of his addresses were his speech at the Burns festival in Washington; the Commemorative address on Decoration Day at Arlington Cemetery; his 4th of July oration in 1860 at Ravenna, Ohio; his Faneuil Hall speech in 1873; his address before the American Social Science Association; his eulogy on Gen. George H. Thomas at Cleveland in 1870; his discourse on College Education at Hiram, Ohio; his address on the Future of the Republic, and his speech on the occasion of the acceptance by Congress of the statues from Massachusetts of Winthrop and Adams in the National Memorial Hall. Even into that dreary desert of obituary addresses which burden the *Congressional Record*, Garfield threw a gleam of human interest by his fine eulogies pronounced upon Starkweather and Morton. His contributions to the *Atlantic Monthly* and to the *North American Review* have become widely known. One of his articles but little known is the elaborate paper upon the census, ancient and modern, contributed by him to the first volume of *Johnson's Universal Cyclopædia* in 1872. This is a performance which would do credit to the most careful scholar.

Out of the writings of our departed brother let us

take a few—a very few—examples of his thought, which are here jotted down quite at random:

"Every character is the joint product of nature and nurture."

"The worst days of darkness through which I have ever passed have been greatly alleviated by throwing myself with all my energy into some work relating to others."

"If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should not grow old."

"True art is but the antitype of nature—the embodiment of discovered beauty in utility."

"There is nothing to me in this world so inspiring as the possibilities that lie locked up in the head and breast of a young man."

"The possession of great powers no doubt carries with it a contempt for mere external show."

"The right of private judgment is absolute in every American citizen."

"We have happily escaped the dogma of the divine right of kings. Let us not fall into the equally pernicious error that multitude is divine because it is a multitude."

"Statistical science is indispensable to modern statesmanship. In legislation, as in physical science, it is beginning to be understood that we can control terrestrial forces only by obeying their laws."

"Ideas are the only things in this universe that are immortal."

"There is nothing on all the earth that you and I can do for the dead. They do not need us, but forever and forever more we need them."

"We no longer attribute the untimely death of infants to the sin of Adam, but to bad nursing and ignorance."

"Things don't turn up in this world until somebody turns them up."

To sum up, for the alluring theme must not tempt me on, I think you will concur with me in the judgment that there have been few characters, indeed, who have united in themselves so much at once of the

strength and the sweetness of human nature. A man of marked individuality—of robust intellect as well as of robust physical frame, he yet had rare refinements of taste, and rare gentleness of temper. The only faults that he ever had came from his too great softness of nature. There were many who envied him his splendid animal spirits, his sunny temperament, his frank, hearty, and cheerful way—in short, what seemed to be his genuine delight in living. If sometimes in later years, when worn down with care and severe labor, he was weary or melancholy, he quickly recovered himself. He delighted in the fresh, unhackneyed ways of children, and in the perennial charm of youth. Even in the midst of that fearfully trying ordeal of the Presidential campaign of 1880, when the venom of a thousand Guiteaus poured from a thousand pens upon him, and the long campaign of slander bore witness to the unutterable brutality of our politics, he kept the serenity of his temper.

Would you see an example of a strong and healthy nature, improved but not spoiled by the refinements of culture? You will find it in Garfield. Would you look for a scholar of lofty ideals and instinctive habits of investigation, the law of whose mind was progress forever more? You will discover him in Garfield. Do you seek for a patriot full of enthusiasm for the Republic, growing continually in political wisdom, and rising from a politician into a statesman? Look at Garfield. Are there those in foreign lands who would

study our free institutions and the men they breed, and find out the typical American? Behold him in Garfield!

But he is gone. We shall no more see that beaming face; the tones of that cheery voice we shall hear no more forever. No more will his lips utter for us those wise and thoughtful sayings to which we were wont to listen. Since we last met together a tragedy more pathetic than the pages of antiquity record has taken away at once the head of this Society and the head of the Nation. To many here present the sense of public calamity is overshadowed by a private grief too profound and sacred to be expressed in words. In the fine elegiac verse of Shakespeare:

"Fear no more the lightning flash,
Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone:
Fear not slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finished joy and moan:
Quiet consummation have,
And renownèd be thy grave.

"Fear no more the heat of the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages."

Into that unknown home of the immortals our eyes cannot follow him. But there is left to us the example of his achievements, the benign memory of his person and character, the consolation that he has well done his work in the world, and that the world is the better that he has lived in it.

At the conclusion of Mr. Spofford's address, the Vice-President called attention to the life-size three-quarter length study of General Garfield, in oils, which had been especially prepared for this meeting, within the past week, by Mr. E. F. Andrews: also to a head of the late President, in crayon, by Mr. E. H. Miller. There was also exhibited a drawing by Mr. Miller after the design of Miss E. B. Johnston for a National Garfield Medal, submitted by her to the United States Senate and referred by that body to the Joint Committee on the Library.

Attention was also called to photographs of Garfield when a boy and when in the army, sent by Mrs. C. Adele Fassett, who was unable to be present.

The Secretary then read a letter from Mr. Horace E. Scudder, of Cambridge, Mass., a college friend of General Garfield, expressing regret at his inability to be present; also the following letter from Mrs. Garfield:

CLEVELAND, OHIO, *Nov. 9, 1881.*

Prof. E. M. GALLAUDET,

*Vice-President of the Literary Society:*

MY DEAR FRIEND: Yours of the 7th inst. is received, and I thank you for all your kind words of sympathy with us in this great sorrow. All you say of my husband is especially precious to me. That he will preside again—in the memory of him which will fill all your hearts on the anniversary night—"the fiftieth"—is to me a dear thought. I wish I were able to contribute something to your paper in the way of reminiscence, but the blinding darkness of the night which has fallen upon my life seems to have turned me back upon chaos, and all memories seem to have been swallowed up in the one overwhelming thought, "I have loved and lost!"

I know how interested General Garfield was in all

your work, and I shall always remember you all with tenderest love.

Our mother is not here just now, but I know she would send to you kindest remembrances.

With sincerest affection to Mrs. Gallaudet, I remain,

Most truly your friend,

LUCRETIA R. GARFIELD.

The Vice-President then announced Col Mallery as the next speaker.

## THE RELATIONS OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD TO SCIENCE.

By Col. GARRICK MALLERY, U. S. A.

The laws of science are deduced only from the correct classification of ascertained facts. For the establishment of those laws the world is indebted to three classes of men. Some can observe the facts, and even classify them for their own use, without the power of formulation to the public; others can express in distinct and attractive style either their own ideas or those of more originative minds; but the progress of both classes would be slow and uncertain without the aid of a third, which provides the means requisite for observation and publication. History tells us how much has been gained through the substantial contributions of the mere *dilletanti* and the avaricious, in their support of true workers; but more deserving of gratitude than the aid derived from vanity and greed is that produced by purely benevolent personal exertion, wholly impersonal regarding considerations of

reward. In this respect science recognizes its enduring obligation to James A. Garfield.

In his short life of busy action there was little time for the full fruitage of original scientific research, yet from his character of mind and methods of work it is not to be doubted that if he had been spared to the dignified leisure properly succeeding Presidential service he would have exhibited in that direction also an inestimable result from his ceaseless and well-ordered studies. In spite of all distractions, he had already accumulated the necessary facts with orderly arrangement, and only time was wanting for the comprehensive discovery and formal expression of principles in fields even wider than statesmanship. It is obvious that he ever chafed against that limitation, and his characteristic energy in progressive self-development would, with the opportunities of riper years, have mounted far above it—

> "To follow knowledge, like a sinking star,
> Beyond the utmost bound of human thought."

That his reflections had for years been turned in the direction indicated may be shown by his criticism on the ordinary collegiate curriculum. Notwithstanding his own keen personal enjoyment of the classics and joyous appreciation of even the lighter forms of literature, his conviction of the paramount importance of practical science must have been cogent when he could speak as follows:

"Our educational forces are so wielded as to teach our children to admire most that which is foreign and fabulous and dead. Our American children must know all the classic rivers, from the Scamander to the yellow Tiber, must tell you the length of the Appian Way, and of the canal over which Horace and Virgil sailed on their journey to Brundusium; but he may be crowned with baccalaureate honors without having heard, since his first moment of Freshman life, one word concerning the 122,000 miles of coast and river navigation, the 6,000 miles of canal, and the 35,000 miles of railroad, which indicate both the prosperity and the possibilities of his own country.

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"A finished education is supposed to consist mainly of literary culture. The story of the forges of the Cyclops, where the thunderbolts of Jove were fashioned, is supposed to adorn elegant scholarship more gracefully than those sturdy truths which are preaching to this generation in the wonders of the mine, in the fire of the furnace, in the clang of the iron mills, and the other innumerable industries which, more than all other human agencies, have made our civilization what it is, and are destined to achieve wonders yet undreamed of. This generation is beginning to understand that education should not be forever divorced from industry; that the highest results can be reached only when science guides the hand of labor. With what eagerness and alacrity is industry seizing every truth of science and putting it in harness!"

From these passages it is obvious that the experience of the statesman supplemented the enthusiasm of the scholar. He knew that the present criterion of a nation's status in civilization is its advance in science. His studies had taught him that even the most civilized of the ancient peoples had no conception of progress in science; indeed, until quite modern times the newest thought was the ultimate thought, not as now understood, but another step toward complete knowledge, a step taken with humble confession of the little yet accomplished.

All the great scientific institutions connected with our Government, which shed lustre on our national name while assuring the growth of industrial resources to our citizens, were fostered into strength, and nearly all originated, during General Garfield's Congressional career, and with his active participation and direction in the several capacities he filled, but more markedly shown while chairman of the Committee of Appropriations of the House of Representatives. The annual appropriations, direct and indirect, for these institutions now amount to the magnificent sum of ten millions of dollars—an investment bearing noble interest. Whatever may be the final outcome of our cis-Atlantic experiment in government, and of our wondrous racial amalgam, our certain triumph will be the rapid subjugation of a vast continent to man's beneficial use through the practical application of scientific laws now in process of enunciation. That without governmental recognition, these would have been indefinitely delayed, General Garfield fully appreciated, and his fame is inseparably connected with them. Had he accomplished naught more, he would thus have raised for himself an enduring monument in contrast to the ruck of legislators, who depend only on the fugitive notoriety of Congressional records and the dubious dignity of returning board certificates. He supported with his eloquence and energy the Light-House Board; the Coast and Geodetic Survey; the several geologic and geographical

surveys and their concentration into the present systematized United States Geological Survey; the Department of Agriculture; the Fish and the Entomological Commissions; the Bureau of Ethnology; the National Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution, of which he was an elected Regent. He was the father of the Bureau of Education, the active advocate for fifteen years of the National Deaf-Mute College, and to my knowledge the most efficient friend of the meteorological division of the Signal Service from its meagre and tentative commencement. As chairman of the Committee on the Census of 1870 he specially showed a full understanding of scientific methods, and a determination that they should be applied in the thorough and accurate collection, not merely of the numbers of inhabitants, but of all social, political, and physical facts attainable. He saw that the aggregation and classification of these facts would bring forth the laws constituting science, and therefore establish true principles of national legislation. To quote his own language:

"Statesmanship consists rather in removing causes than in punishing or evading results. Statistical science is indispensable to modern statesmanship. In legislation, as in physical science, it is beginning to be understood that we can control terrestrial forces only by obeying their laws. The legislator must formulate in his statutes not only the national will, but also those great laws of social life revealed by statistics."

A parallel might well be drawn between him and Edmund Burke, not as regards the immediate sway of their oratory upon an audience, in which the American

surpassed the British statesman, but including the preparation for that oratory and its lasting effect. They each excelled all contemporaries by marvellous industry in gathering facts and numbers, and by philosophic selection and marshalling of them, to serve equally well for practical use and for poetic illustration. By the electrolysis of their genius figures of statistics became for a time figures of rhetoric, with capacity of reverting to their original powers.

But he did not grant his approval to every scheme for subsidizing even attractive and interesting lines of scientific research. His judicious and discriminating reflections upon the true relations of the Government to science require an extended quotation :

"It is of the utmost importance that whatever the United States undertakes to do in reference to science shall be done upon some well-understood, well-reasoned, and well-defined system. * * * It is a safe and wise rule to follow in all legislation, that whatever the people can do without legislation will be better done than by the intervention of the State or the Nation.

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"This leads me to inquire what ought to be the relation of the National Government to science? What, if anything, ought we to do in the way of promoting science? For example, if we have the power, would it be wise for Congress to appropriate money out of the Treasury to employ naturalists to find out all that is to be known of our American birds? Ornithology is a delightful and useful study; but would it be wise for Congress to make an appropriation for the advancement of that science? In my judgment, manifestly not. We would thereby make one favored class of men the rivals of all the ornithologists who, in their private way, following the bent of their genius, may be working out the results of science in that field. I have no doubt that an appropriation out of our Treasury for that purpose would be a positive injury to the advancement

of science, just as an appropriation to establish a church would work injury to religion.

"Generally the desire of our scientific men is to be let alone; to work in free competition with all the scientific men of the world; to develop their own results, and get the credit of them each for himself; not to have the Government enter the lists as the rival of private enterprise.

"As a general principle, therefore, the United States ought not to interfere in matters of science, but should leave its development to the free, voluntary action of our great third estate, the people themselves.

"In this non-interference theory of the Government I do not go to the extent of saying that we should do nothing for education—for primary education. That comes under another consideration—the necessity of the nation to protect itself, and the consideration that it is cheaper and wiser to give education than to build jails. But I am speaking now of the higher sciences.

"To the general principle I have stated there are a few obvious exceptions which should be clearly understood when we legislate on the subject. In the first place the Government should aid all sorts of scientific inquiry that are necessary to the intelligent exercise of its own functions.

"For example, as we are authorized by the Constitution and compelled by necessity to build and maintain light-houses on our coast and establish fog-signals, we are bound to make all necessary scientific inquiries in reference to light and its laws, sound and its laws—to do whatever in the way of science is necessary to achieve the best results in lighting our coasts and warning our mariners of danger. So, when we are building iron-clads for our Navy or casting guns for our Army, we ought to know all that is scientifically possible to be known about the strength of materials and the laws of mechanics which apply to such structures. In short, wherever in exercising any of the necessary functions of the Government scientific inquiry is needed, let us make it, to the fullest extent, and at the public expense.

"There is another exception to the general rule of leaving science to the voluntary action of the people. Wherever any great popular interest, affecting whole classes, possibly all classes of the community, imperatively need scientific investigation, and private enterprise cannot accomplish it, we may wisely intervene and help where the Constitution gives us authority. For example, in discovering the origin of yellow fever and the methods of preventing its ravages the nation should do, for the good of all, what neither the States nor individuals can accomplish. I might,

perhaps, include in a third exception those inquiries which, in consequence of their great magnitude and cost, cannot be successfully made by private individuals. Outside these three classes of inquiries, the Government ought to keep its hands off, and leave scientific experiment and inquiry to the free competition of those bright, intelligent men whose genius leads them into the fields of research."

It might not have been expected that he would have been able to use his influence concerning the Army when chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, or at other times, to directly advance science and general knowledge, yet this he achieved. He effectively encouraged the employment of the leisure and talent of military officers, during peace, for study, experiment, and action in works of civilization pending the occasions when arts of destruction should claim them. The Army and Navy were to him not merely reserved forces, to remain latent except in war. He considered, too, that whatever is not useful is hurtful, and that the Army could only be dangerous in time of peace when through either neglect or compulsion it became idle. He therefore stimulated the interest of officers in other directions than guard-mounting and dress-parades, knowing that besides the actual production of good work they would be better officers as well as better men when not mere specialists, but devoting their time and energies to acquire and extend scientific information. For this object he steadily contended against the petty jealousy of martinets in high rank, whose sole mode of fabricating their own loftiness was by depressing all but such

flunkies as were willing to be mere extensions of their master's plumes and bullion.

It was my privilege, in connection with duty in the Signal Service, to be present at several of the sessions of the Committee on Appropriations during General Garfield's chairmanship, and to observe his methods of work. It is well known that he was absolutely thorough in his mastery of every detail concerning measures introduced by or presented to him, often more so than the officers in charge of the institutions to be benefited; but I was struck by the skillful manner in which, with his unsatiable thirst for all useful knowledge, he would cross-examine all well-informed persons appearing before him until they yielded up the whole that he desired to know. Frequently he would retain such persons after the formal sessions, or make appointments to meet them socially, and having obtained additional suggestions would pursue or verify them through many volumes and documents. What was thus ascertained was, by dictation or transcription, placed in permanent form, always thereafter accessible, so that his auspicious motto *inter folia fructus* was observed to the letter.

It may not be germane to the present theme to dwell upon Garfield's noble independence of the bare prejudices of constituents, or upon his conception of a higher fealty than that paid to the shifting gusts of party clamor. It is, however, proper to notice that his distaste for limited politics, as distinct from statesman-

ship, was shown in the admiration, mingled with longing, with which he contemplated the serene vocations of scientists and educators. This is expressed in his eulogy of Joseph Henry:

"During all the years of his sojourn among us there has been one spot in this city across which the shadow of partisan politics has never fallen, and that was the ground of the Smithsonian Institution."

The thought was repeated in his last important public address, that on May 4, 1881, the Presentation Day of the National Deaf-Mute College:

"I would like to say another thing: that during these many years of public service I have loved to look upon this as a neutral ground, where, from all our political bickerings and differences, we come under the white flag of truce that should be raised over every school-house and college in the land."

I can best close by quoting our late President's considerations on the objects attained by science:

"The scientific spirit has cast out the demons and presented us with Nature, clothed in her right mind and living under the reign of law. It has given us for the sorceries of the alchemist the beautiful laws of chemistry; for the dreams of the astrologer, the sublime truths of astronomy; for the wild visions of cosmogony, the monumental records of geology; for the anarchy of diabolism, the laws of God."

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At the conclusion of Col. Mallery's address, the Vice-President announced as the next speaker Mr. Chief-Justice Drake, who was General Garfield's predecessor as President of the Society.

### REMARKS OF CHIEF-JUSTICE DRAKE.

After the carefully prepared and excellent papers which have been read, I can venture but a few words.

I shall refer to General Garfield as an orator, in which character he was, I think, one of the foremost men that this country has produced. What I have to say refers principally to an address he made soon after his nomination for the Presidency, on the occasion of the unveiling of a monument at Painesville, Ohio, to the soldiers from that place who had given their lives for their country in the war of the rebellion. I cannot repeat his words, but I remember that he set out to tell the assembled multitude what that monument *taught;* and he drew from it, I think, three lessons. When I read the first, it was so elevated in tone, so striking in thought, and so inspiring in sentiment, that it seemed to me there was little more to be said. When he set forth the second lesson, he stepped up to a higher plane, and as my mind followed him I found myself wondering how he would come down from there. But he did come down safely and gracefully. As he pointed to the third lesson he rose into a still more elevated region, and as I read his grand words the feeling came over me that he could not get down from that height without a fall. But I mistook the man. The difference between him and many other orators was, that he was always a *thinking* man. His loftiest efforts never took him where he was not sustained by "the power of thought—the magic of the mind." He therefore ventured to no height where he would lose his head. Thought was, indeed, a distinguishing characteristic of his oratory on all occa-

sions, great or small. It came from his mind to yours like a powerful current from a galvanic battery, and left the impression of there ever being more of it in reserve. Even in the little speeches he made from railroad cars to the people, none of them perhaps two minutes long, there was usually a striking thought, which many of his hearers stored in memory. But it is not my wish to drift into an essay on General Garfield as an orator. I used the Painesville speech for a double purpose—to illustrate his power as an orator, and to introduce an anecdote which, I think, will interest the friends here present.

Immediately after reading that speech I yielded to the impulse of the moment, and wrote a letter to Mrs. Garfield, in which I said that if she did not stop her husband's making such speeches as that, it would make Republicans wish that he might be defeated for the Presidency, where his mouth would be closed, and go to the Senate, where his eloquence would continue to be heard by the country. I really did not expect the good lady to answer the letter, but after the lapse of some time there came from her the note I shall now read, and which, I am sure, all present will be glad to hear:

"MENTOR, OHIO, *July 18, 1880.*

"MY DEAR JUDGE: Your letter, so complimentary to General Garfield, was duly received, and a thankful response flew away to you, but since it only went upon

the wings of the wind, I will now fasten it down to a more substantial vehicle, with a hope that you may have forgotten how long ago you wrote to me.

"The world is getting ahead of me all the while, now-a-days, but the tortoise's gait may yet bring me up.

"General Garfield joins me in thanks to you and very kind regards.

"Cordially your friend,

"LUCRETIA R. GARFIELD.

"HON. C. D. DRAKE."

All who hear me can understand how highly I would esteem such a letter from such a lady as Mrs. Garfield; but the dreadful event which has darkened her days has given this note a tenfold value to me; for that event has disclosed to the world that she is more, far more, than the world had known, or indeed supposed.

Friends, have you ever dwelt upon the thought how seldom in the history of the world a great man has had a great woman for his wife? This country is no exception to the general proposition. When, therefore, a great man appears on the stage of public action, and at his side stands a great woman as his wife, it is a circumstance to be noted as glorifying at once his career, her sex, and their country. Such a woman, in my opinion, came with James A. Garfield from the modest walk of life, where they joined their lives together,

to the high position of a Representative in Congress, and thence to the most exalted station which this nation can bestow on one of its citizens. Long before he was nominated for the Presidency I had observed in her the refined repose of manner, the self-possessed dignity of deportment, the gentle tone of voice, the frank but undemonstrative graciousness, which was observed equally by all who enjoyed her society; but what drew my observation more closely was the intelligent, steady, sincere eye, telling better than words the earnest, pure, and brave spirit within, and appealing to the best in every one around her. But though I observed all this, I did not then see that under it all was the mind and soul of a great woman. Now, to this mourning nation, through the fire of her unspeakable affliction, is revealed what she really was; and the American people—yes, the people of all the civilized world—see in her a woman who, beginning life in humble circumstances, rose with her husband hand in hand, step by step, from height to height, up to the supreme station in which she became, officially, the representative woman of a nation of more than fifty million people; and from first to last, at every step, was found equal to every demand of her every position, and, at last, most equal when strained the most. To be and to do all this, in my view, entitles her to be recorded in history as a great woman. Henceforth let American women point with pride to her as a great wife of a great American.

The Vice-President then announced Dr. Charles W. Hoffman, Vice-President of the Society during the first year of General Garfield's Presidency, as the next speaker.

REMARKS OF DR. HOFFMAN.

I propose, Mr Chairman, to speak this evening of but one of the prominent qualities of the literary character of General Garfield.

He was so often at the Law Library that I never secured his autograph in my book kept for the purpose. He was there at home, and it did not occur to me to register names of the members of the household with those of visitors. His investigations, however, were generally rather in the line of questions relating to political economy and the history and philosophy of law. Of course, he conducted cases in the Supreme Court, but his legislative duties did not allow him much leisure to attend to the work of the forum.

But I was often impressed with his great devotion to and accomplishment in classical literature. One of the most notable occasions of his expression of this talent is, perhaps, bright in the memory of many here present. It was at a meeting of the Literary Society, at his own house, when the evening's entertainment included a paper from that fine scholar, Dr. C. C. Cox, on the Latin hymns of the church. After remarks from others, the General said he had always had an especial admiration for the Latin language, which having been the outgrowth of a nation of warriors, rude, rough, and unused to the polish of the arts, was

first thought to be as harsh, unwieldy, and incapable of modulation as the civilization under which it was developed. But in later times it showed a power of adaptation, that had made it a fitting vehicle for the expression of every human thought, and it had thus become the language of the learned world. In its progress to this eminence it had first exhibited its flexibility and harmony in the poetry of the Augustan age; next, its precision and conciseness in the codes of law; and, thirdly, its force and depth of feeling in the expression of the emotions of religion. In the latter capacity, he said, it nowhere shone more conspicuously than in the hymns of the church; such splendid compositions as the *Dies Iræ*, the *Stabat Mater*, and the *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* having been the delight of the learned and pious in all subsequent ages, and having exercised the talents of the most eminent musical composers and of innumerable translators in every language. He had always especially delighted in them, and one composition, though of much later date, yet written in the same style, had been such a favorite with him that he begged permission to repeat it. He then recited the well-known prayer of Mary, Queen of Scots, *O Domine Deus*, after which he closed his remarks with an animated apostrophe to the spirit of poetry, in its power to gild and soften the rough ways of life and illumine even the dark paths of the blind; and then turning to Dr. Gallaudet, he asked if the deaf-mutes ever wrote poetry. The result of that

question was the paper on that subject, afterwards read by the Doctor before the Society.

After the literary exercises had ended, I said to him I was very glad to notice his continued fondness for the classics, and his vivid memory of them. He replied he had not seen the lines he had repeated for twenty years. I then remarked I feared that, like most men with such superior acquirements, they would give him so much else to do that he would find no leisure to transmit the same culture to his children. He answered that in that regard he was exceptionally fortunate, as, to use his own words, "when I kept school I taught my wife Latin, and now she teaches the boys. Go and ask Mrs. Garfield about it, and she will show you the lesson they have had in Cæsar to-day."

I have learned from an authentic source an anecdote which forcibly illustrates his love for classical learning. When Mr. Evarts was about to start for Europe, as a member of the Monetary Commission, he asked the President if he could not bring him back some memento of his journey. General Garfield replied that perhaps in his travels he might find some rare or interesting book, which would be a most acceptable token of remembrance. In Paris, Mr. Evarts happened to come across a fine edition of Horace, which, knowing the President's tastes, he secured and sent to him. It chanced to arrive at the White House when the General lay in the last dark

days of danger and distress. In some brighter interval during his long ordeal of pain and weakness, it was thought well to try and interest him in whatever might best serve to divert his attention from his sad condition. The book was brought to him, and opening at random, he read a passage and attempted a translation. It was but a feeble effort, but it showed how "even in our ashes glow our wonted fires." His thoughts, as we know, in those last sorrowful moments were turning towards his home, the home of his youth in those early golden days, when he first made his acquaintance with the classics, days which to all form the brightest spot in memory's waste.

"Aspicit, et dulces moriens reminiscitur Argos."

In his researches among the Latin poets, he no doubt, in common with all scholars, often dwelt with delight on that splendid passage in the Tenth Satire of Juvenal, where the career of Hannibal is drawn in such vivid colors, and his last dire fate is delineated as the exemplar of too many of the world's illustrious men in all ages. But it was not the destiny of our President to add another to the long list of such examples. Not in adversity and defeat, not in obscurity or dishonor, did he pass away, but in the zenith of his fame, with the accomplishment of all that makes life valuable or noble, we are called to see

"A final triumph, and a closing scene,
Where gazing nations watch the hero's mien,
As undismayed, amidst the tears of all,
He folds his mantle, regally to fall."

At the conclusion of Dr. Hoffman's remarks, the Vice-President introduced President James C. Welling, the first President of the Society, who spoke as follows:

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT WELLING.

My knowledge of Gen. Garfield's devotion to classical learning, from being general became special and personal about two years ago, when, through a friend, (I believe it was President Gallaudet,) he made application to the principal of our Preparatory School for a teacher competent to give advanced instruction in Greek and Latin to his two sons, who were preparing for college. This application was referred to Professor Montague, Adjunct Professor of the Latin language and literature in the Columbian College.

On entering upon his duties as private tutor, Prof. Montague found that, under the guidance and instruction of their accomplished mother, the Garfield boys had been thoroughly initiated, not only in the elements, but in the structure, syntax, and prosody of the Latin tongue. At the time when he was called to assist in their classical education they were already reading, and reading intelligently, in the Metamorphoses of Ovid, insomuch that it only remained for Prof. Montague to carry on and to supplement the Latin instructions of their mother, and to add to those instructions some special disciplines in the Greek language and literature.

I am able to attest, from frequent conversations with Prof. Montague, that he found a great delight in the

office of private instructor to the Garfield boys, because of the intelligence and scholarly sympathy with which his instructions were sustained by the father as well as the mother. General Garfield kept himself constantly advised of the studies which his sons were pursuing, and closely followed their progress from day to day in every Latin or Greek author whom they were reading. His familiarity with both of these languages made this supervision of their studies an easy task—I should rather say, a pleasure—to which he brought the affection of a father combined with the enthusiasm of the classical scholar.

He showed this enthusiasm by the genuine love in which he held the choicest among the classical writers, a love which embraced in its scope all the refinements of classical editorship as brought to bear on the form in which his choicest authors had been published. Recognizing with Milton that "a good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life," he deemed nothing unimportant which related to the form or the substance of his favorite authors in the Greek and the Latin tongues. Shenstone was not fonder of the flowers which adorned the parterres of his garden than Garfield of the good books, in good editions, which adorned the shelves of his library.

For ten years after his entrance in Congress he made it a habit to read some Greek and Latin every day before he went from his home to the Capitol. And

his readings in the classics were not inspired by the dilettantism of the pedant or by the ambition of the rhetorician. It was not to garnish his speeches with scraps of Greek and Latin lore, stolen from a "feast of languages," that he pored by day and by night over the great writers of antiquity. It was for their instruction as well as for their literary discipline that he familiarized himself with their contents, and, that he might miss nothing of their contents, he studied them diligently in their original forms. General Garfield saw that education, in the true and full sense of that word, consists in so training our faculties and in so widening the range of our knowledge, that the mind of the individual shall be brought into organic relation and conscious correspondence with the best minds of the whole human race. And hence it is that the thoughts and feelings of the living age pulsed through his heart and brain with a momentum which took force and direction from all that is wisest and best in the collective mind of man. And hence, too, it is that among all his contemporaries in public life he became the best exemplar of "the scholar in politics," and knew how not only to speak well but to act well for the Republic.

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The Vice-President announced as the closing exercise of the evening a poem by Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, which was then read by the author.

## MRS. BURNETT'S POEM.

### BY THE SEA—SEPTEMBER 19, 1881.

Watchman! What of the night?
"The sky is dark, my friend;
And we, in heavy grief, await the end.
A light is burning in a silent room,
But we,—we have no light in all the gloom."

Watchman! What of the night?
"Friend, strong men watch the light
With the strange mist of tears before their sight,
And women, at each hearthstone, sob and pray
That the great darkness end at last in day."

Watchman! How goes the night?
"Wearily, friend, for him;
Yet his heart quails not, though the light burns dim.
As bravely as he fought the field of Life
He bears himself in this the final strife."

Watchman! What of the night?
"Friend, we are left no word
To tell of all the bitter sorrow stirred
In our sad souls. We stand and rail at Fate
Who leaves hands empty and hearts desolate.
'Are pure, great souls so many in the land,
That we should lose the chosen of the band?'
We cry; but he who suffers lies
Meeting sharp-weaponed pain with steadfast eyes,
And makes no plaint, while on the threshold Death
Half draws his keen sword from its glittering sheath,
And looking inward, pauses—lingering long—
Faltering—himself the weak before the strong."

Watchman! How goes the night?
"In tears, my friend, and praise
Of his high truth and generous trusting ways

Of his warm love and buoyant hope and faith,
Which passed life's fires free from all blight or scath.
Strange! We forget the laurel wreath we gave,
And only *love* him standing near his grave."

Watchman! What of the night?

" Friend, when it is past,
We wonder what our grief can bring at last
To lay upon his broad, true, tender breast,
What flower, whose sweetness will outlast the rest;
And this we set from all the bloom apart,—
He woke new faith and love in every heart."

Watchman! What of the night!

" Would God that it were gone,
And we could see once more the rising dawn.
The darkness deeper grows—the light burns low,
There sweeps o'er land and sea a cry of woe."

Watchman! What now? What now?

" Hush, friend! *We* may not say,
Only that all the pain has passed away."

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1882

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